

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 11115 060848Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8626

UNCLAS HONG KONG 11115

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION (REF: TODAY'S EPF X-1)

FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM HONGKONG STANDARD EITORIAL NOV. 6, TITLED  
"ROUGH PASSAGE FOR SAXBE":

1. IT NOW APPEARS THAT AT A TIME WHEN IT CAN AFFORD IT LEAST THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WILL FACE MAXIMUM EMBARRASSMENT AND POSSIBLY FAILURE IN ATTEMPTING TO PUSH THROUGH CONFIRMATION FOR A TOP LAW AND ORDER POST A NOMINEE WHOSE ETHICAL QUALIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO DOUBT....
2. NOW COMES SENATOR WILLIAM SAXBE, THE MAN NIXON HOPES CAN MAKE AMERICANS BELIEVE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS CAPABLE OF ENFORCING THE LAW BUT WHO HAS ALSO INDICATED HE FEELS THE PRESIDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO BREAK IT.
3. SAXBE'S REMARK, MADE IN HONGKONG LAST AUGUST AND REPORTED BY THE STANDARD, THAT NIXON SHOULD DESTROY THE WATERGATE TAPES IF THEY WERE INCRIMINATING AND HIS STATED BELIEF THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD DO EXACTLY THAT WILL CERTAINLY BECOME A CENTRAL ISSUE WHEN AND IF HE COMES BEFORE A SENATE COMMITTEE TO SEEK CONFIRMATION.
4. DESTROYING EVIDENCE SOUGHT BY THE COURTS IS A CRIME UNDER AMERICAN LAW AND A MAN WHO SUGGEST OR ADVOCATES SUCH ACTION IS

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PAGE 02 HONG K 11115 060848Z

EXACTLY THE TYPE OF OFFICIAL THE US DOES NOT NEED AT A TIME WHEN

IT IS ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH A PRESIDENT WHO APPARENTLY VIEWS  
HIMSELF ABOVE REPROACH IN MATTERS RANGING FROM BURGLARY TO TAX  
EVASION.

5. SAXBE IS DESCRIBED AS A FREE-SPEAKING MAVERICK AND SOME PEOPLE  
FEEL HIS UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT WAS MEANT TO BE SARCASTIC, BUT AMERICA  
NS  
ARE FINDING IT MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT THESE DAYS TO LAUGH AT THE  
ANTICS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND HAVE HAD THEIR FILL OF CYNIC  
ISM  
AT HIGH LEVELS, ESPECIALLY WHERE THE LAW OF THE LAND IS CONCERNED.

6. IT SEEMS LIKELY THEREFORE THAT THE SENATOR WILL BE JUDGED BY  
THE SPIRIT IN WHICH HIS STATEMENT WAS MADE AND WILL GO THE WAY OF  
PATRICK GRAY.  
IZENBERG

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